

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 261019Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7219

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: DIET DELIBERATIONS RESUME

SUMMARY. FOLLOWING A COMPROMISE ON THE HOLDING OF
ADDITIONAL SWORN TESTIMONY ON THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR,DIET
DELIBERATIONS RETURNED TO NORMAL FEBRUARY 26. AS MUCH
TIME HAS BEEN LOST IN DIET DELIBERATIONS DUE TO LOCKHEED
AFFAIR, DIET FINAL APPROVAL OF BUDGET IS NOT EXPECTED
UNTIL WELL AFTER THE APRIL 1 OPENING OF THE NEW FISCAL
YEAR, THUS PROBABLY REQUIRING THE ADOPTION OF AN INTERIM
BUDGET. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING A NINE DAY HIATUS OVER THE HANDLING OF
THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR, DIET DELIBERATIONS RETURNED TO
NORMAL ON FEBRUARY 26 WHEN LDP GAVE IN TO OPPOSITION
DEMANDS FOR HOLDING ANOTHER ROUND OF BUDGET COMMITTEE

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HEARINGS WITH SWORN WITNESSES ON THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR.

OPPOSITION HAD BEEN PRESSING FOR TWO ADDITIONAL DAYS OF SWORN TESTIMONY AND FOR RECALL OF TANAKA INTIMATE KENJI OSANO AS A WITNESS, BUT WAS OVERRIDEN BY LDP BUDGET COMMITTEE MAJORITY WHICH DECIDED TO HOLD HEARINGS FOR ONE DAY ONLY -- MARCH 1 -- AND TO RECALL MARUBENI AND ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS EXECUTIVES. IN ADDITION THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO SUMMON FORMER LOCKHEED VICE CHAIRMAN KOCHIAN, ID CORPORATION PRESIDENT SHIG KATAYAMA, LOCKHEED JAPAN MANAGER TOSHIYOSHI ONI (US CITIZEN), AND SEVERAL OTHER JAPANESE INCLUDING KODAMA. IN SEPARATE ACTION, LDP DECIDED TO FORM A LOWER HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR FOLLOWING THE MARCH 1 HEARINGS.

2. DELIBERATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO RESUME ON THE BUDGET FEBRUARY 27, BUT FINAL LOWER HOUSE ACTION IS NOT EXPECTED BEFORE MID-MARCH. BARRING (UNLIKELY) UPPER HOUSE ACTION BEFORE THE APRIL 1 BEGINNING OF THE NEW FISCAL YEAR, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT THE BUDGET WILL RECEIVE DIET APPROVAL BEFORE MID-APRIL. THIS TWO WEEK DELAY WOULD REQUIRE THE ADOPTION OF AN ITERIM BUDGET TO COVER THE GAP, A PRACTICE WHICH HAS BECOME ROUTINE IN RECENT YEARS.

3. OTHER LOWER HOUSE COMMITTEES ARE SCHEDULED TO HOLD SESSIONS NEXT WEEK, BUT GIVEN THE PRESSURES TO MOVE THE BUDGET THROUGH THE HOUSE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, PROGRESS ON OTHER MEASURES IS DOUBTFUL.

4. COMMENT. FEW, IF ANY, JAPANESE EXPECT KOCHIAN OR KATAYAMA TO APPEAR VOLUNTARILY -- AND THEY CANNOT BE LEGALLY COMPELLED TO. ONI, ON THE OTHER HAND, MAY APPEAR IF, AS IS RUMORED, HE IS A DUAL NATIONAL.
HODGSON

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